mandibles end in pincers or chelæ, resembling lobster-claws; the movable joint of the chelæ has two teeth at the end; the opposed extremity of the fixed joint of the chelæ is narrow, and ends in a hook.

Dr. Turnbull had seen the cattle killed, and was positive that the mites occupied the position in the ear of the steers while these were alive; such being the case, the Acarus may be viewed as a parasite of the ox, and may be specifically named *Gamasus auris.*—*Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philad.* 1872.

The Horns of Antilocapra. By Dr. J. E. Gray, F.R.S. &c.

The British Museum has purchased of Mr. E. Gerrard, junior, the skin of an adult male *Antilocapra* which was just developing the new horny sheath; and this was rather different from what, by observing the horns in a more developed state, I had been led to expect.

The core of the horns was covered with a thick skin, which in the dried state is black; but the apex is covered with a small conical sheath about $1\frac{3}{4}$ in. long and $\frac{7}{8}$ in. wide at the base, hard and perfectly horny, very like the horn of cattle. It is black, with a white acute tip about $\frac{1}{2}$ in. long.

The horny sheath of a more developed specimen brought at the same time has a similar hard horny tip; but the lower part of the horn is less solid and more evidently formed of felted, matted hair, which is more distinct and less compactly matted at its base or last developed part; so that it would appear that the skin of the core first develops the horny tip, and then the more spongy part formed of felted hair.

Notice of a new and remarkable Fossil Bird. By O. C. Marsh.

One of the most interesting of recent discoveries in palæontology is the skeleton of a fossil bird, found during the past summer, in the upper Cretaceous shale of Kansas, by Prof. B. F. Mudge, who has kindly sent the specimen to me for examination. The remains indicate an aquatic bird about as large as a pigeon, and differing widely from all known birds in having *biconcave vertebræ*. The cervical, dorsal, and caudal vertebræ preserved all show this character, the ends of the centra resembling those of *Plesiosaurus*. The rest of the skeleton presents no marked deviation from the ordinary avian type. The wings were large in proportion to the posterior extremities. The humerus is 58·6 millims. in length, and has the radial crest strongly developed. The femur is small, and has the proximal end compressed transversely. The tibia is slender and 44·5 millims. long; its distal end is incurved as in swimming birds, but has no supratendinal bridge. This species may be called *Ichthyornis dispar*. A more complete description will appear in an early number of Silliman's Journal.

Yale College, Sept. 26th, 1872.